

Rec'd PCT/PTO 20 NOV 2005

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

REC'D 12 OCT 2004

WIPO

PCT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference IDE: RPW: FP17896	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416).
International Application No. CT/AU2003/000665	International Filing Date (day/month/year) 30 May 2003	Priority Date (day/month/year) 30 May 2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. ⁷ F16G 11/00, F16L 3/233, B65D 63/10, H02G 3/22, A01G 17/12, A01K 11/00, G09F 3/02, 3/04		
Applicant NAVISAFE CORPORATION PTY LTD et al		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 17 sheet(s).

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☒ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 17 December 2003	Date of completion of the report 28 September 2004
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer B. NGUYEN Telephone No. (02) 6283 2306

Basis of the report

With regard to the elements of the international application:*

☐ the international application as originally filed.☒ the description, pages 10 - 17 , as originally filed,

pages , filed with the demand,

pages 1 - 5, 7 - 9A, received on 30 August 2004 with the letter of 30 August 2004

pages 6, received on 24 September 2004 with the letter of 24 September 2004

☒ the claims, pages , as originally filed,

pages , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19,

pages , filed with the demand,

pages 18 - 20, 23, 24 received on 30 August 2004 with the letter of 30 August 2004

pages 21, 22 received on 24 September 2004 with the letter of 24 September 2004

☒ the drawings, pages 1/4 - 4/4 , as originally filed,

pages , filed with the demand,

pages , received on with the letter of

☐ the sequence listing part of the description:

pages , as originally filed

pages , filed with the demand

pages , received on with the letter of

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is:

☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in written form.☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages☐ the claims, Nos.☐ the drawings, sheets/fig.

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report

V. Lack of unity of invention

In response to the invitation to restrict or pay additional fees the applicant has:

- ☐ restricted the claims.
☐ paid additional fees.
☐ paid additional fees under protest.
☐ neither restricted nor paid additional fees.

☒ This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied with and chose, according to Rule 68.1, not to invite the applicant to restrict or pay additional fees.

1. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is

- ☐ complied with.
☒ not complied with for the following reasons:

1. Claims 1 – 23, 43 – 47 : A system for differentiating two or more cables/containers.
2. Claims 24 – 28: A card comprising a plurality of detachable elongate members.
3. Claims 29, 30: An electrical appliance cable identification tying device.
4. Claims 31 – 42: A tying device.

4. Consequently, the following parts of the international application were the subject of international preliminary examination in establishing this report:

- ☒ all parts.
☐ the parts relating to claims Nos.

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims 1 - 47	YES
	Claims	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1 - 47	YES
	Claims	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1 - 47	YES
	Claims	NO

Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

None of cited documents discloses the features of the invention as defined in independent claims 1, 29, 31, 35, 39 and 43.

The invention defined in claims 1 to 47 is not disclosed by any of these documents.

No relevant combination of the cited documents would lead a person skilled in the art to the invention defined in the claims.

Therefore, the invention as defined in claims 1 to 47 is novel and is considered to involve an inventive step. The invention is also considered to be industrially applicable.

NEW CITATIONS

US 4268986 A (PIANA) 26 May 1981

US 4899474 A (PIANA) 13 February 1990

US 4947568 A (BARBIERI) 14 August 1990

US 4579759 A (BREUERS) 1 April 1986

US 6651362 B2 (CAVENEY) 25 November 2003

- 1 -

A TYING DEVICE

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a tying device. In one form the invention relates to a cable tying device for tying to a single cable in a looped manner, or for tying a number of cables together, and will primarily be described with reference to this context. The device can also be used for identification of the cable/s to which it is tied. It is to be understood that the invention has broad use in securing and tying as well as identification applications for all manner of mechanical or automotive apparatus, containers, cables, ropes, hoses, cords and the like.

15

Background Art

Apparatus for tying a cable is known in the art. In particular, with electrical type cabling it is known to use thin plastic cable ties to join cables together or, for example, to secure cables to walls or a framework in a non-releasable manner. Such devices are used in order to protect the cable itself from being pulled, broken etc as well as from representing a trip hazard for workers.

The power cables of loose electrical equipment such as fans, power tools, computers, toasters etc are often most conveniently stored in a rolled up fashion for storage or transport by such cable ties, although these ties are not readily undone when the cabling is needed in use, and normally cannot be re-used when untied.

30

Summary of the Invention

In a first aspect the present invention provides a system for differentiating two or more cables of two or

- 2 -

more respective appliances, the system comprising a respective tying device for tying to a respective cable, wherein each tying device is provided in a differentiated form from each other tying device.

5 An advantage of this aspect of the invention is that the system can allow a user to readily identify the appliance to which the cable is connected, or to identify the cable itself. This is particularly useful in situations where a plurality of appliance cables are
10 located in close proximity to one another, for reasons of safety and to facilitate maintenance.

 When the term 'appliance' is used it can broadly refer to any electrical device, for example computers, audio and video equipment and the like, as well as to
15 mechanical devices such as fixed apparatus (pipes, tanks, handrails etc) or moving mechanical or automotive apparatus, for example.

 When the term 'cable' is used it refers to any type of cable or conduit, such as electrical cables, wires etc,
20 or non-electrical cables such as pipelines and conduits, hydraulic cables etc.

 Preferably the tying device is used for identifying a cable of an electrical appliance, the tying device being attachable to the cable and having a preprinted appliance
25 name thereon or positionable thereon.

 Preferably the preprinted or positionable appliance name is located on an external surface of an enlarged portion of the tying device.

 Preferably a plurality of the tying devices are
30 supplied as part of a unit and are detachable from the unit for use. Most preferably the unit is a card.

 In a first preferred arrangement, each tying device comprises:

- 3 -

- an elongate member for releasable securement at a cable by wrapping around the cable; and
- a planar enlarged portion arranged on the member for insertion through a hole located in the member, the enlarged portion being at least in part of a thickness greater than a narrowest width dimension of the hole, and at least in part of a transverse width greater than a corresponding width dimension of the hole.

5
10 When the term 'hole' is used in this or any other aspect herein, it refers to any shape or size of perforation, slit or orifice in the member, the periphery of the hole being entirely surrounded by the material of the member.

15 When the term 'thickness' is used in this or any other aspect herein in relation to the enlarged portion, it refers to a height or depth dimension of that enlarged portion rather than to any transverse width dimension of the portion.

20 Preferably the enlarged portion is located at one end of the elongate member. Preferably the hole is located adjacent to an opposite end of the elongate member.

Preferably the enlarged portion defines a shoulder where it joins the elongate member such that, in use, when
25 the enlarged portion has been inserted through the hole, the shoulder is seated at and abuts an edge of the hole to releaseably secure the device at the cable.

Preferably the shoulder is at least partially rounded. In an alternative preferred arrangement, the shoulder is
30 bevelled.

Preferably the width of the hole is equivalent to or greater than the width of the elongate member.

- 4 -

Preferably a remote end of the enlarged portion is tapered to facilitate insertion thereof into the hole.

Preferably the enlarged portion of the device at least is made of a flexible material. Most preferably the
5 elongate member is a strap.

Preferably indicia are pre-applied to an external surface of the portion which in use can facilitate identification of a cable to which the tying device is releasably secured.

10 In an alternative preferred arrangement, each tying device comprises:

- an elongate member for releasable securement at a cable by wrapping around the cable; and
- an enlarged portion connected to the elongate
15 member and being insertable through a hole located in the member;

wherein the member has a width less than the enlarged portion at the connection between the member and enlarged portion to define a shoulder at the enlarged
20 portion such that the device widens moving from the member to the enlarged portion at the connection therebetween.

Preferably the tying device is as otherwise defined for the first preferred arrangement.

25 In a further alternative preferred arrangement, each tying device comprises:

- an elongate member for releasable securement at a cable by wrapping around the cable;
- a planar enlarged portion arranged on the member
30 for insertion through a hole located in the member, the enlarged portion including a raised portion thereon to provide that part of the enlarged

- 5 -

portion with a thickness greater than a remainder
of the enlarged portion;

the device being configured such that the enlarged
portion can be passed from one side of the member,
5 completely through the hole, to an opposite side of
the member to be secured at the opposite side.

In this arrangement, preferably the enlarged portion
has a transverse width which is greater than the
transverse width of the elongate member. Preferably the
10 elongate member has the same thickness as the remainder of
the planar enlarged portion.

Preferably indicia are pre-applied to an external
surface of the raised portion which in use can facilitate
identification of a cable to which the tying device is
15 releasably secured. The raised portion can also be formed
of a different colour material to further enhance and/or
differentiate its appearance.

Preferably the tying device of this preferred
arrangement is as otherwise defined for the first
20 preferred arrangement.

In a second aspect the present invention provides a
card comprising a plurality of detachable elongate
members, each of the members being frangibly joined to the
card for detachment therefrom, an enlarged portion being
25 defined in at least one of the members for insertion in
use through a hole located in the member, the enlarged
portion being as defined in any of the preferred
arrangements described for the first aspect.

An advantage of this aspect of the invention is that
30 a plurality of elongate members can be formed at once by
being e.g. stamped out of a single card. The elongate
members need not be identical but can have different shape
and size dimensions determined by the stamping tool used.

- 6 -

When the term 'card' is used in this or any other aspect herein, it refers to any panel or panel-like member from which elongate members can be detached and leave behind a card skeleton, the card being flat in shape and
5 comprising at least a border frame section.

Preferably the enlarged portion has a transverse width greater than the transverse width of an adjacent portion of the elongate member.

Preferably the elongate portion has a transverse
10 width greater than a corresponding transverse width of the hole.

Preferably the members are each made of the same material as the card.

Preferably each member of this aspect is a tying
15 device of the first aspect.

In a third aspect the present invention provides an electrical appliance cable identification tying device for attachment to the cable and having pre-applied indicia indicating the name of the appliance thereon.

20 An advantage of this aspect of the invention is that, when e.g. wrapped circumferentially about a cable to form a collar, the tying device can allow a user to readily identify the appliance to which the cable is connected, or to identify the cable itself. This is particularly useful
25 in situations where a plurality of appliance cables are located in close proximity to one another.

Preferably the electrical appliance cable identification tying device of this aspect is a tying device as otherwise defined in the first aspect.

30 In a fourth aspect the present invention provides a tying device comprising:

- 7 -

- an elongate member for releasable securement at a cable by wrapping around the cable; and
- a planar enlarged portion arranged on the member for insertion through a hole located in the member, the enlarged portion being at least in part of a thickness greater than a corresponding thickness dimension of the hole, and at least in part of a transverse width greater than a corresponding width dimension of the hole.

5
10 One advantage of a tying device according to the invention is that, when wrapped circumferentially about a cable to form a collar, the device remains secured to itself, but can also be released so that the device can be re-used many times. The device can be used for tying to
15 or together one or a large number of cables of various diameters, for example, by varying the length of the elongate member.

Preferably the portion is arranged for bearing indicia or for being labelled with indicia. Most preferably the
20 indicia is a name capable of being understood by a human user.

Preferably the tying device of this aspect is a tying device of the first aspect.

In a fifth aspect the present invention provides a
25 tying device comprising:

- an elongate member for releasable securement at a cable by wrapping around the cable; and
- an enlarged portion connected to the elongate member and being insertable through a hole located

30 in the member,
wherein the member has a width less than the enlarged portion at the connection between the member and enlarged portion to define a shoulder at the enlarged

- 8 -

portion such that the device widens moving from the member to the enlarged portion at the connection therebetween.

5 As for the fourth aspect of the invention, when the tying device is wrapped circumferentially about a cable to form a collar, the device remains secured to itself, because of the interaction of the greater thickness portion with the hole.

10 Preferably the portion is arranged for bearing indicia or for being labelled with indicia. Most preferably the indicia is a name capable of being understood by a human user.

Preferably the tying device of this aspect is a tying device of the first aspect.

15 In a sixth aspect the present invention provides a tying device comprising:

- an elongate member for releasable securement at a cable by wrapping around the cable;
- a planar enlarged portion arranged on the member for insertion through a hole located in the member, the enlarged portion including a raised portion thereon to provide that part of the enlarged portion with a thickness greater than a remainder of the enlarged portion;

20 25 the device being configured such that the enlarged portion can be passed from one side of the member, completely through the hole, to an opposite side of the member to be secured at the opposite side.

30 An advantage of this aspect of the tying device is that the raised part of the enlarged portion can provide greater visual prominence. The thicker enlarged portion is also inherently stiffer than the remainder of the tying device which makes it easier for a user to see any

- 9 -

labelling or printing thereon without the enlarged portion bending or curling etc.

Another advantage of this aspect of the tying device is that the device is easier grip with a user's fingers and thus easier to handle and to tie in use.

Preferably the portion is arranged for bearing indicia or for being labelled with indicia. Most preferably the indicia is a name capable of being understood by a human user.

Preferably the tying device of this aspect is a tying device of the first aspect.

In a seventh aspect the present invention provides a system for differentiating two or more containers for containing two or more respective items, the system comprising a respective tying device for labelling each respective container, wherein each tying device is provided in a differentiated form from each other tying device.

An advantage of this aspect of the invention is that the system can allow a user to readily identify the container and its contents. This is particularly useful in situations where a plurality of containers are located in close proximity to one another, for reasons of safety and speed of access to the container contents.

When the term 'container' is used it refers broadly to any type of device for containing a substance, such as a collapsible or rigid bag, box, gas cylinder, drum etc and is applicable whether or not the container is sealable.

Preferably each tying device identifies its respective container, the tying device being attachable to a neck of the container, or a container neck formed by folding of the container, the tying device having a preprinted container name thereon or positionable thereon.

- 9A -

Preferably the preprinted or positionable container name is located on an external surface of an enlarged portion of each tying device. Most preferably the container is a plastic bag.

5 Preferably the tying device of this aspect is a tying device of any one of the first to sixth aspects.

Brief Description of the Drawings

10 Notwithstanding any other forms which may fall within the scope of the present invention, preferred forms of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 shows a plan view of one embodiment of a tying device in accordance with the invention.

15 Figure 2 shows a side elevation view of the embodiment shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3 shows an end elevation view of the embodiment shown in Figure 1.

20 Figure 4 shows a plan view of one embodiment of a card in accordance with the invention, the card including a plurality of detachable tying devices of the type shown in Figures 1 to 3.

Figure 5 shows a plan view of a further embodiment of a tying device in accordance with the invention.

25

30

- 18 -

CLAIMS

1. A system for differentiating two or more cables of
two or more respective appliances, the system
5 comprising a respective tying device for tying to a
respective cable, wherein each tying device is
provided in a differentiated form from each other
tying device.
2. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the tying
10 device is used for identifying a cable of an
electrical appliance, the tying device being
attachable to the cable and having a preprinted
appliance name thereon or positionable thereon.
3. A system as claimed in claim 2 wherein the preprinted
15 or positionable appliance name is located on an
external surface of an enlarged portion of the tying
device.
4. A system as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3 wherein a
plurality of the tying devices are supplied as part
20 of a unit and are detachable from the unit for use.
5. A system as claimed in claim 4 wherein the unit is a
card.
6. A system as claimed in claims 1 or 2 wherein each
tying device comprises:
25 - an elongate member for releasable securement at a
cable by wrapping around the cable; and
- a planar enlarged portion arranged on the member
for insertion through a hole located in the member,
the enlarged portion being at least in part of a
30 thickness greater than a narrowest width dimension
of the hole, and at least in part of a transverse
width greater than a corresponding width dimension
of the hole.

- 19 -

7. A system as claimed in claim 6 wherein the enlarged portion is located at one end of the elongate member.
8. A system as claimed in claim 7 wherein the hole is located adjacent to an opposite end of the elongate member.
- 5 9. A system as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 8 wherein the enlarged portion defines a shoulder where it joins the elongate member such that, in use, when the enlarged portion has been inserted through the hole, the shoulder is seated at and abuts an edge of the hole to releaseably secure the device at the cable.
- 10 10. A system as claimed in claim 9 wherein the shoulder is at least partially rounded.
- 15 11. A system as claimed in claim 9 wherein the shoulder is bevelled.
12. A system as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 11 wherein the width of the hole is equivalent to or greater than the width of the elongate member.
- 20 13. A system as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 12 wherein a remote end of the enlarged portion is tapered to facilitate insertion thereof into the hole.
14. A system as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 13 wherein the enlarged portion of the device at least is made of a flexible material.
- 25 15. A system as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 14 wherein the elongate member is a strap.
16. A system as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 15 wherein indicia are pre-applied to an external surface of the portion which in use can facilitate identification of a cable to which the tying device is releaseably secured.
- 30

- 20 -

17. A system as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein each tying device comprises:

- an elongate member for releasable securement at a cable by wrapping around the cable; and
- 5 - an enlarged portion connected to the elongate member and being insertable through a hole located in the member;

wherein the member has a width less than the enlarged portion at the connection between the member and enlarged portion to define a shoulder at the enlarged portion such that the device widens moving from the member to the enlarged portion at the connection therebetween.

18. A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein the tying device is as otherwise defined in any one of claims 1 to 16.

19. A system as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein each tying device comprises:

- an elongate member for releasable securement at a cable by wrapping around the cable;
- a planar enlarged portion arranged on the member for insertion through a hole located in the member, the enlarged portion including a raised portion thereon to provide that part of the enlarged portion with a thickness greater than a remainder of the enlarged portion;

the device being configured such that the enlarged portion can be passed from one side of the member, completely through the hole, to an opposite side of the member to be secured at the opposite side.

20. A system as claimed in claim 19 wherein the enlarged portion has a transverse width which is greater than the transverse width of the elongate member.

- 21 -

21. A system as claimed in claim 19 or claim 20 wherein the elongate member has the same thickness as the remainder of the planar enlarged portion.
- 5 22. A system as claimed in any one of claims 19 to 21 wherein indicia are pre-applied to an external surface of the raised portion.
23. A system as claimed in any one of claims 19 to 22 wherein the device is as otherwise defined in any one of claims 1 to 16.
- 10 24. A card comprising a plurality of detachable elongate members, each of the members being frangibly joined to the card for detachment therefrom, an enlarged portion being defined in at least one of the members for insertion in use through a hole located in the member, the enlarged portion being defined in any one of claims 6 to 17 or 19 to 22.
- 15 25. A card as claimed in claim 24 wherein the enlarged portion has a transverse width greater than the transverse width of an adjacent portion of the elongate member.
- 20 26. A card as claimed in claim 24 or claim 25 wherein the elongate portion has a transverse width greater than a corresponding transverse width of the hole.
- 25 27. A card as claimed in any one of claims 24 to 26 wherein the members are each made of the same material as the card.
28. A card as claimed in any one of claims 24 to 27 wherein each member is a tying device as otherwise defined in any one of claims 1 to 23.
- 30 29. An electrical appliance cable identification tying device for attachment to the cable and having pre-applied indicia indicating the name of the appliance thereon.

- 22 -

30. An electrical appliance cable identification tying device as claimed in claim 29 that is a tying device as otherwise defined in any one of claims 1 to 23.

31. A tying device comprising:

- 5 - an elongate member for releasable securement at a cable by wrapping around the cable; and
- 10 - a planar enlarged portion arranged on the member for insertion through a hole located in the member, the enlarged portion being at least in part of a thickness greater than a corresponding thickness dimension of the hole, and at least in part of a transverse width greater than a corresponding width dimension of the hole.

15 32. A tying device as claimed in claim 31 wherein the portion is arranged for bearing indicia or for being labelled with indicia.

33. A tying device as claimed in claim 32 wherein the indicia is a name capable of being understood by a human user.

20 34. A tying device as claimed in any one of claims 31 to 33 wherein the tying device is as otherwise defined in any one of claims 1 to 5 or 7 to 16.

35. A tying device comprising:

- 25 - an elongate member for releasable securement at a cable by wrapping around the cable; and
- an enlarged portion connected to the elongate member and being insertable through a hole located in the member,

30 wherein the member has a width less than the enlarged portion at the connection between the member and enlarged portion to define a shoulder at the enlarged portion such that the device widens moving from the

- 23 -

member to the enlarged portion at the connection therebetween.

36. A tying device as claimed in claim 35 wherein the portion is arranged for bearing indicia or for being labelled with indicia.

37. A tying device as claimed in claim 36 wherein the indicia is a name capable of being understood by a human user.

38. A tying device as claimed in any one of claims 35 to 37 wherein the tying device is as otherwise defined in any one of claims 1 to 16.

39. A tying device comprising:

- an elongate member for releasable securement at a cable by wrapping around the cable;

- a planar enlarged portion arranged on the member for insertion through a hole located in the member, the enlarged portion including a raised portion thereon to provide that part of the enlarged portion with a thickness greater than a remainder of the enlarged portion;

the device being configured such that the enlarged portion can be passed from one side of the member, completely through the hole, to an opposite side of the member to be secured at the opposite side.

40. A tying device as claimed in claim 39 wherein the portion is arranged for bearing indicia or for being labelled with indicia.

41. A tying device as claimed in claim 40 wherein the indicia is a name capable of being understood by a human user.

42. A tying device as claimed in any one of claims 39 to 41 wherein the tying device is as otherwise defined in any one of claims 1 to 16.

- 24 -

43. A system for differentiating two or more containers for containing two or more respective items, the system comprising a respective tying device for labelling each respective container, wherein each tying device is provided in a differentiated form from each other tying device.
44. A system as claimed in claim 43 wherein each tying device identifies its respective container, the tying device being attachable to a neck of the container, or a container neck formed by folding of the container, the tying device having a preprinted container name thereon or positionable thereon.
45. A system as claimed in claim 44 wherein the preprinted or positionable container name is located on an external surface of an enlarged portion of each tying device.
46. A system as claimed in claim 44 or claim 45 wherein the container is a plastic bag.
47. A system as claimed in any one of claims 43 to 46 wherein the tying device is as otherwise defined in any one of claims 1 to 42.